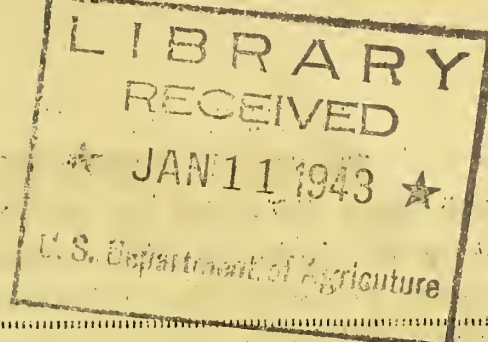


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The Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C. December 14, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. (Weather Bureau Report, Dec. 9)

The end of November terminated the fall season for the current year. In general, the season was characterized by favorable weather, except for too much rain in some interior, eastern, and far northwestern sections, and rather serious dryness in much of the South, especially the Southeast and far Southwest. Temperatures were decidedly uniform, with averages for each of the last 2 months of the season slightly above normal in practically all sections of the country. September was relatively warm in the more eastern and far Western States, and moderately cooler than normal in intervening areas. November had slightly below normal temperature in a relatively small northwestern area and also very locally in the Northeast and on the Pacific coast; elsewhere there was somewhat more-than-normal warmth. Except in a few limited areas, the averages were somewhat above normal. In fact, recent years have had a remarkable run of near-normal to above-normal fall temperatures. During the last decade not a single fall could be classed as generally cold, for all but one have averaged from practically normal temperature to decidedly above normal rather generally throughout the country; the one exception, that of 1937, had substantially below normal in Eastern States, though abnormally warm in the West. November was abnormally wet in a large northwestern area, including northern California, and also from the central Mississippi Valley and Lake Region eastward. This month was abnormally dry in the South, especially the Southwest where very little precipitation occurred; New Mexico had only 3 percent of normal rainfall for the month. For the country as a whole fall is normally the driest season of the year, the United States average precipitation being 6.44 inches. The country-wide average for the fall of 1942 was 7.08 inches or 110 percent of normal.

DEPARTMENT DEVELOPS COOTIE CURE. (Pathfinder, Dec. 12, 1942) During

World War I the cootie was closer to the doughboy than his thoughts of home. The cootie, which thrives on the slow movements of a mass army with poor sanitary facilities, has frequently changed the course of history. In the present war of movement the cootie has thrived only on the Russian front, where Russian reports say captured Germans are frequently lousy. To assure that American soldiers need not suffer from body lice, the Department of Agriculture has just devised for the Army inexpensive, light delousing equipment which can rid uniforms of lice and their eggs in less than an hour. The equipment is light enough so that it can follow the soldier right up to the front. By killing the eggs as well as the lice it assures that a new crop of cooties will not spring to life within a few hours after the uniform is back in wear. The Department was given the job because of its long experience in controlling insect pests. The nature of the new cootie cure is a military secret - but a reassuring one to have on our side.

December 14, 1942

NO RADIO SHORTAGE. (Business Week, Nov. 28, 1942) The public may have to give up coffee and gasoline, but chances are that it won't have to give up its favorite broadcasts. A spotty shortage of radio tubes among dealers has produced dire predictions that 60,000 sets a day will soon be going out of service. However, WFB's Radio and Radar Division is readying a program for submission to the Requirements Committee which will permit greater than normal production of replacement tubes, though some styles will be eliminated. Even in England, where replacement parts are scarce, only about 10% of the sets are out of service after three years of war.

DEHYDRATED FOODS RICH IN VITAMINS. (Science Service, Nov. 16, 1942) Many vitamins are found in dehydrated foods if they are properly treated. Fruits dehydrated under the new factory processes retain more vitamins than those preserved by sundrying. While prunes, peaches, and apricots are good sources of vitamin C, only those treated with sulfur dioxide retain this vitamin. On the other hand, the sulfur treatment destroys two thirds of the vitamin B₁, as the thiamin molecule is split by sulfur dioxide. Since peaches and apricots are not rich in B₁, sulfuring is probably desirable in their dehydration. Vitamin A is stable and is retained in both dehydrated and sundried fruits, but riboflavin is quickly destroyed by light so that sundried fruit has lost most of its vitamin B₂, while dehydrated fruit shielded from light, retains it. Studies on meat showed that there was less loss of vitamins B₁, B₂, and nicotinic acid in dehydrated than in canned meat. The cooked dehydrated meat compared favorably with the cooked fresh meat, since there is always some loss in preparation for the table.

SCHOOL MILK PROGRAMS. (Excerpt from Fred Wallace memo to State War Boards) I am urging all Chairmen of War Boards to help initiate and to **KEEP SCHOOL MILK PROGRAMS GOING** unless the fluid milk market situation is really critical and outside supplies cannot be shipped in. . . . School Milk Programs are important to our National Health. Children who never had sufficient milk to drink before in their lives have been helped to Good Health. In England milk and other foods are reserved for the children when supplies are short. . . . Unless a substantial proportion of milk is sold for drinking purposes farmers in fluid milk markets cannot afford to produce more milk. School Milk Programs bring more milk to more children — and at the same time encourage farmers to keep up wartime milk production. Since expansion of the program is now limited to rural and small population centers milk supplies generally should be adequate for the program.

EGGS FLOWN TO SOLDIERS. (THE U.S. Egg & Poultry, Dec. 1942) Getting eggs to our soldiers stationed in Panama isn't an easy task, but the difficulties are overcome even though a half dozen kinds of transportation are involved — truck, airplane, coastal steamer, dugout canoe, horse and shoulder pack. But it's all in the day's work and the army "keeps 'em frying." Our mountain troops, too, receive their egg quota by airplane — and without a cracked egg in the lot.

FARM FREEZERS VALUABLE. (Refrigerating Engineering, Dec. 1942) If the housewife has a farm freezer cabinet at home, she can freeze many vegetables and fruits in smaller quantities each day, as each reaches its peak of perfection and obtains the highest possible quality of frozen food. Chickens, squabs, ducks, as well as game such as rabbits, squirrel and pheasants, can also be frozen when convenient. In the fall when pork and beef are slaughtered, roasts, steaks, chops, pork loins, etc., can be cut up, wrapped in a moisture-vapor-proof paper and frozen. The farm freezer cabinet actually becomes a bank or reservoir of good food, on which the housewife can draw at any time. The size or cubic content of the farm freezer cabinet is very important; many times too small a cabinet is bought. There is no comparison between a household electric refrigerator, which is intended to hold only a few days' supply of food, and a freezer storage cabinet, which is intended to hold several months' supply of food. The variety and volume of food stored in a freezer-storage cabinet depends somewhat on the individual owner's desires, but it is surprising how quickly 10 to 20 cu. ft. interior capacity fills up when vegetables, fruits, poultry, meat and other things good to eat are stored away for future use.

DICOUMARIN IS MEDICAL AID. (Successful Farming, December, 1942) The chemical "dicoumarin," which is formed in spoiling sweet clover, may become useful to the medical profession. Dr. Paul Link of the University of Wisconsin discovered that when cattle eat spoiled clover their blood will not clot. Medical scientists are now planning to use dicoumarin in preventing serious blood clots which frequently follow operations, and in other contingencies.

FOOD MEANS EFFICIENCY. (Science Service, Nov. 28, 1942) Peak efficiency for America's fighting men can be obtained only through further nutritional research to provide special diets for specialists in the armed forces. A major source of aviation accidents, for example, is said on good authority to have been practically eliminated by one of our allies through a change in food practice. Investigation of just what the aviator should eat to best fortify himself against the sudden temperature changes, strain of flying at high altitudes and other constantly changing stresses of combat flying has been called for. Extensive use of dehydrated foods has produced new problems to be solved by the nutritionist. Scientists must now seek new information concerning loss of vitamins and protein and the value of the vitamin B group in these new food forms.

NO CHRISTMAS TREES. (Business Week, Nov. 21, 1942) Unless you cut down the little blue spruce in the front yard, chances are you won't have a Christmas tree this year. Shortage of farm and migrant labor and the lack of transportation facilities for nonessentials combine to reduce the supply from last year's figure of over 10 million trees to a mere trickle. In normal years, about 3,000,000 trees are imported from Canada, but none has been cut there since Oct. 31, and it is doubtful if more than a small supply will be brought in this year. Always a low-profit spare-time crop, Christmas trees probably will be abandoned by farmers with few regrets. If wood is cut, it will be only for fuel. Wherever trees are to be had, prices will sky-rocket because no ceiling has been placed on them, and dealers predict this year's demand will be considerably greater than last year's.

POINTED RATIONING. (Business Week, Dec. 5, 1942) OPA has decided definitely to use the point system for impending food rationing - not the dollar-value basis originally proposed to govern distribution of meat. The dollar system, though invitingly simple, was discarded when English ration experts pointed out that it was too inflexible. Naturally, OPA isn't saying which foods will be rationed, but even the most casual newspaper reader could hardly guess wrong. And housewives report that meat, canned goods, and dairy products will be under OPA's thumb soon. If and when that happens (meat rationing is certain), such foods will have to be purchased with two kinds of currency. Above all, the consumer must have ration coupons - each good for a certain number of points. Then he must have the necessary cash or credit. Here is how it would work: First, OPA would assign each type of cereal a point value, basing this evaluation on the supply (with due allowance for consumer tastes). Let's say that branflakes are plentiful, wheatflakes fairly plentiful, oatflakes rather scarce, and oatmeal extremely scarce. Under such circumstances, OPA might set up a point system something like this: Branflakes, 1 point per 6 oz.; Wheatflakes, 2 points per 6 oz.; Oatflakes, 4 points per 6 oz.; Oatmeal, 8 points per 6 oz.; Because the plentiful branflakes have the lowest point value, consumers presumably would buy them as against oatmeal, which requires eight times as many points. Demand would be geared to supply forcibly.

INDIA LEADS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTION. (Western Tobacco Journal, Dec. 1,) In spite of India's great industrial development she remains predominantly an agricultural country, and more than three-fourths of her population depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for a livelihood. The total area under cultivation is in the neighborhood of 245,000,000 acres, of which only about 1,250,000 acres are utilized in the production of tobacco. Yet India is the leading tobacco-producing country in the world. Her annual production of leaf tobacco is about 500,000 tons - 1,120,000,000 pounds - of which over 1,000,000,000 are consumed annually in India.

WEEDS INTO KAPOK. (Business Week, Dec. 5, 1942) North-Central states are the sites of work, now edging toward the production stage, in turning cattails and milkweed into a domestic kapok, used for lifebelts, into buoyant stuffing for upholstered furniture, into many other installations where fluff, light weight, resiliency, or insulative quality is specified. Need for a kapok equivalent came automatically with the fall of the Dutch East Indies, which provided 90% of American consumption (about 8,000 tons, worth \$1,500,000 in 1940). Thus, if lifejackets were to be issued to United Nations sailors and aviators, a substitute had to be developed. That was where Dr. Boris Borkman entered the picture. A Chicago physician and former director of the Pasteur Station in Moscow, Dr. Borkman had experimented with milkweed for eight years, mainly in an effort to develop a binder to guard against soil erosion. He found milkweed a splendid binder, but to interest farmers it had to pay a cash return. So Dr. Borkman took up the experiments of the late inventor, Thomas A. Edison. Edison was interested only in rubber from milkweed, but Dr. Borkman would settle for almost anything. He and associates from Iowa State College devised a machine to divide milkweed floss from its seeds by air currents. From seeds, pods, stalks, and floss he produced a heterogeneous batch of products, ranging from wallboard to wax. Floss was one of these - delicate, lustrous, hollow floss of the same buoyancy as kapok - equally as elastic and moisture-repellent. Three pounds of it would keep a man afloat for days.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

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EXPORTERS HOPEFUL OF BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE'S "DECENTRALIZATION AGREEMENT" with Brazil. Although official details are still lacking, the program, as understood by the traders, is to establish BEW "field men" in Brazil and later in Mexico, Argentina, and other Latin American countries, to pass on the import applications submitted to the local governmental import control agency before they are presented in the new form of "Certificates of Preference." By means of the reports from these field men the BEW as a "claimant" agency, along with the Army, Navy, Lend-Lease, and other governmental bodies, may document its demands on the nation's stock pile. The activities of the BEW's field agents will be cleared through the newly established "economic councilors" of the State Department. (N. Y. Times)

A CARIBBEAN AREA REFINING COMMITTEE has been established by the Office of the Federal Petroleum Coordinator for War to regulate production in the West Indian, Gulf Coast and Atlantic seaboard refining plants to fill the war needs of the United Nations. This committee will be concerned both with the volume of output from these refineries and with transportation difficulties. (Editorial, N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION PRESCRIBES RATES FOR QUEBRACHO EXTRACT from ports within the scope of the River Plate/United States Freight Conference to U. S. Atlantic and Gulf ports. Charges are \$16.00 per ton of 2,240 pounds on quebracho extract, plus the surcharge of 35 percent authorized for this trade. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA PURCHASES THREE AXIS VESSELS to be used exclusively in hemisphere trade. The acquisition was in accordance with a plan devised by the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee in August 1941, for use of foreign vessels immobilized in American waters at the outbreak of the war. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

AGRARIAN POLICY UPHELD IN MEXICO despite the situation created by the state of war. Engineer Fernando Foglio Miramontes, chief of the agrarian department at the Huerta School, Morelia, Michoacán, reaffirmed the traditional Mexican land policy in recently distributing in the name of President Avila Camacho 2,803 certificates of agrarian rights and 120 certificates of "Indefeasible Agriculture" among the farmers. (N. Y. Times)

MEXICAN COURT UPHOLDS OIL LAND EXPROPRIATION OF 1938. Judge Ponciano Hernández Ortega denied an injunction asked by El Aguila Oil Company, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, and others, ruling that the expropriation was constitutional. The court also denied a request by the plaintiffs that in the future private interests be guaranteed subsoil rights. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN "LEASE-LEND" LABOR A SUCCESS. With sugar beet crop safely harvested and stored away, Californians praise the thirty-seven hundred Mexicans who have met the manpower shortage problem in West Coast agriculture to a degree exceeding original expectations. (Howard M. Norton, Baltimore Sun)

MEXICO HUNTS JOBS FOR IDLE WORKERS. According to an exhaustive study of the unemployment situation made by the Labor Ministry, stories of idle workers all over Mexico are greatly exaggerated. The ministry's report shows that in the Federal District there are a few more than 1,000 jobless in the rayon and headgear industries; there are about 1,500 unemployed in the States of Sonora, Jalisco, Chihuahua and Zacatecas because of the exhaustion of ore bodies in some of the mines. Of the some 900 workers deprived of employment in the banana zones of Papaloapan and along the Gulf coast, most are now engaged in farm work which will tide them over until they can get back their jobs on the banana plantations. Lack of vessels have thrown out of work 3,000 men in Veracruz and 2,500 in Tampico, but farm colonies and fishing cooperatives are being organized for these workers, while others will be employed in the shipyards and drydocks the Federal Government is to build. (N. Y. Times)

PRESIDENT AVILA CAMACHO IS URGED TO DECREE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW. The Mexican Social Security plan, which was presented before the Inter-American Social Security Conference at Santiago, Chile, has been termed as one of the most advanced and comprehensive measures in this Hemisphere. Representing a synthesis of the experiences of all the American countries which have such laws, it differs from the Social Security Law of the United States in that it centralizes and standardizes pensions and insurance for the entire Republic. Instead of a variety of State laws, Mexico would have a single Federal code to take care of all types of social insurance. (Christian Science Monitor)

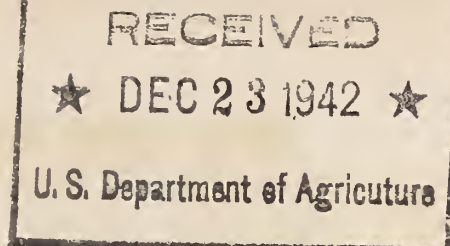
NEW RUBBER SOURCE FOUND IN PANAMA'S JUNGLES. The first sheets of raw rubber refined from the latex of a sprawling rubber stand of native trees deep in the jungles of Darién have arrived in Panama City. Two American technicians, George L. Seeley and Gilbert Brown of the Rubber Reserve Company, say that the crude rubber from this development will keep coming in. Since early spring, Mr. Seeley has been on the isthmus scouting native rubber possibilities, educating local tappers to approve modern methods, and arranging for the Rubber Reserve Company to buy the crude rubber. (Christian Science Monitor)

URUGUAY'S ELECTION RESULTS INDICATE STRONG PRO-ALLY POSITION. President-elect Juan José de Amézaga is a past Ambassador, former Minister of Agriculture, a delegate to the League of Nations and to various international conferences. The ballots that returned President Alfredo Baldomir's Colorado party to power overwhelmingly crushed the reactionary Blanco or National party. This means that pro-Axis tendencies and a policy of "strict neutrality" have lost all foothold in Uruguay. (N. Y. Times)

VENEZUELA CARGOES EMBARGOED BY PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS. The embargo, which is effective immediately, is temporary, and does not apply to shipments under air transportation priority issued by the Air Transport Command of the War Department or to those covered by U. S. Government bills of lading. Abnormal conditions caused by the war emergency prevent PAA from obtaining sufficient additional equipment to handle increased shipments to Venezuela. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

7981
Reserve

The Digest



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Washington, D.C., December 21, 1942

A HALF CENTURY OF WINTER TEMPERATURES. (Weekly Weather Report, December 16, 1942) In winter, temperature is the most important aspect of the weather and at the beginning of the season there is always much speculation as to what nature has in store impending. Individual winters, from year to year, naturally fall into one of three categories; "typical," or near normal temperatures, moderate departures from normal, and extreme warmth or cold. The outstanding feature of the 50 years is the frequency of occurrence of mild winters during the last couple of decades, beginning with 1920-21. For example, for these 22 winters Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and both the Dakotas had 15 above normal; Oklahoma 16; New York, Tennessee, Ohio, Iowa, and Kansas 17; Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri 18, and Indiana 19. However, not a single winter of the 50 had either above or below normal temperature in all States, though those of 1898-99 and 1909-10 had deficiencies in all States but one, the former California and the latter New England, while for 1920-21 and 1937-38 all had above normal in each case except one. New Mexico and North Dakota, respectively. For the country as a whole, the winter of 1920-21 was the warmest for this half century and 1898-99 the coldest, the latter averaging 5.5° colder than the former. The winter normal for the United States is 33.6° .

LONG NEGLECTED WOMEN'S WORK SHOES. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, December) A new "high style" type of footwear is coming to the forefront in the women's shoe field--the long neglected and sorely needed women's work shoe. Evidence of increasing recognition of the importance of specially designed, well constructed, and suitably identified work shoes for women is found on every hand. Manufacturers are interested and some are producing work shoes; foot health authorities are seeing some of their dreams of foot health among women workers come true; stylists no longer give work shoe models a broad snub; retailers are selling available work shoes; employers are urging their workers to dress their feet properly, and in some instances are insisting that they do so; consumer groups and Government agencies are squarely behind the promotion of proper work shoes; and as for working women--they are coming into their own for the first time in foot-wear history. Much has been accomplished since Hide and Leather and Shoes first smashed through the barriers of tradition and prejudice and asked why there is no distinction made between dress and work types in planning, making, and classifying women's shoes. In the course of its thorough study of the need for women's work shoes, Hide and Leather and Shoes has conclusively proved that a large potential market exists, that it is generally unserved, that it is receptive, and that cultivation of the market through the development and promotion of proper types of women's work shoes has the enthusiastic appreciation and support of influential consumer leaders, powerful consumer organizations, and Government war and home economics officials.

December 21, 1942

WE'LL RAISE MORE HOGS. (Wallaces' Farmer, Dec., 12, 1942) The war program needs at least a 15 per cent increase in next year's pig crop. Are corn belt farmers ready to supply it? If Iowa is a fair sample, they are. Forty-three per cent of the farmers interviewed in a recent poll of Iowa farm opinion said they planned to increase their hog production in 1943. This survey was made before Secretary Wickard pledged support of the hog market at \$13.25 at Chicago thru September, 1944. The number of farmers planning to raise more hogs has probably increased since the announcement. . . . Few admitted worrying about lack of credit, but lack of the proper equipment — houses, fencing, etc. — was given as a major reason for staying out of hogs. Forty-three per cent of the owners and 54 per cent of the tenants listed this as one trouble. Biggest single item was shortage of labor. Of the owners, 58 per cent said this would cause trouble in raising more hogs. Of the tenants, 59 per cent said the same thing. Lack of feed was given by a surprisingly high number, in view of the big Iowa corn crop. Twenty-nine per cent of both owners and tenants gave this as a reason for not raising more hogs. Difficulties with hog diseases were keeping 20 per cent of the owners from expanding, and 15 per cent of the tenants. Fear of a slump was checking 15 per cent of the owners; 17 per cent of the tenants. This fear has been removed by Secretary Wickard's announcement that prices would be supported at \$13.25, Chicago. If to the 43 per cent who plan to increase hog production, we add the 16 per cent who were fearful about price slumps and are now reassured, it seems that over half of Iowa's farmers are likely to raise more hogs in 1943. This should go a long way in taking care of the 15 per cent increase needed.

POINT RATIONING EARLY IN 1943. (Victory, Dec. 8, 1942) Point rationing, to balance buying among similar articles and prevent runs on any of them, will begin early in 1943. OPA revealed last week that War Ration Book 2, containing coupons of graduated values, will go to every American soon after the first of the year. Within groups of items which can be substituted for each other in actual use, you will have to give up coupons of a higher value to get things that are scarcer than usual, coupons of a lower value for those that are relatively more plentiful. In making the announcement, OPA reminded the public that the fighting forces will now require more and more supplies, food, and ammunition, and stated that the point system was adopted as the fairest way of distributing what remains in the groups covered. OPA is not ready to give a complete list of things to go under the point system, but meats will be one of the first groups.

GOOD MILK WILL KEEP. (National Butter and Cheese Journal, Editorial Dec., 1942) Milk consumers in many cities are learning that good milk, properly cared for, will not deteriorate in quality when kept in the home for two or three days. Every other day deliveries, and, in some cases, three deliveries per week, are teaching them this lesson, and they are glad to co-operate with the milk distributors because it is the patriotic thing to do. Farmers can do as well in producing and caring for cream for churning. Loss pick-ups per week need not cause the delivery of poorer cream to the creamery if the farmer will do his job right. He will do it right, too, in our opinion, if he gets the right sort of co-operation from the men who haul and who buy his cream.

VITAMIN A STUDY NEEDED. (The Creamery Journal, Editorial, Dec., 1942)

A movement was started last month by directors of 15 agricultural experiment stations to enter into a study of the Vitamin A content of butter. The problem to be probed will be that of determining how much of the vitamin a person gets in the course of a year by consuming 18 pounds of butter. The answer to this query will be valuable information for the butter industry. Since the vitamin A content of butter varies from season to season the only means of providing an answer is to take an average. The information will be doubly important now since oleomargarine manufacturers have been permitted to fortify their product and to claim its uniformity of vitamin content.

GRADE SUBSTITUTION IN FERTILIZERS. (Victory, Dec. 8, 1942) A

grade-substitution program expected to reduce the consumption of chemical nitrogen in mixed fertilizers by approximately 20 percent was instituted December 4 by WPB through issuance of General Preference Order M-231 as amended. Through this program a large amount of nitrogen, vital for war purposes, will be saved without impairing crop production in more than a negligible degree. The amended order lists the grades of fertilizer, by nitrogen content, used during the 1940-41 season in the respective States. Opposite these are the approved grades which are to be substituted in 1942-43. Fertilizer manufacturers are required to produce the approved 1942-43 grades in the same proportion as the 1940-41 grades.

FIGHTING FARMERS. (Iowa Agriculturist, Editorial, Dec., 1942)

Last year huge increases in farm production were asked by our government. Now the 1943 goals have been announced and they ask still more than 1942. But as the goals were announced, a frank admission of the importance of farmers in the war was heard in Washington. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, referring to the farmers as "front line fighters," has promised support prices, relief of farm labor shortage, and post-war protection of the farmers' markets, in return for their extra effort. One-fourth of the great new food supply is intended for military demands, clearly showing the duty of the farm in the defense of the free people of the world.

SHOE PRODUCTION DECLINE UNDERWAY. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, Nov.,

21, 1942) Shoe production statistics, and reports from key manufacturing sections from week to week, show definite evidence that a declining trend in civilian shoe production is already underway. Analysis of the current production picture and of opinion in reliable trade quarters indicates that the declining trend will probably accelerate during the next few months and that by this time next year the rate of civilian production may be at the lowest level it has reached in nearly a decade. This does not mean a real shortage of essential footwear for civilian consumers is in the offing, but it does constitute a warning that unless some steps are taken to curb over-selling by retailers, scare newspaper stories by pseudo authorities, and deliberate hoarding by consumers, someone is going to come out on the short end before the production chart again starts to rise.

December, 1942

VICTORY BRANDS. (National Grocers Bulletin, December) Victory brands for most staples are being predicted for not later than 1944 if war lasts that long. Likewise it is predicted that quality standards will have to be relaxed, and that "Victory" brands will quickly follow the conversion and concentration program for manufacturing plants. First such concentration in sugar refineries; second, possibly in flour mills, and third, possibly coffee roasters.

POULTRYMAN'S OPPORTUNITY. (Nation's Agriculture, December) E. B. Heaton, Secretary, Institute of American Poultry Industries writes.....The accident of war has given the poultry industry a golden opportunity to boost consumption to an all-time high for the duration and to keep it there after the war. It would be the height of folly to muff that opportunity. Chicken has played second fiddle to beef and pork for years. Last year every person in the United States ate 70.4 pounds of pork, 63.1 pounds of beef--only 20.3 pounds of chicken.

NEW SWEETENER FROM APPLES--METHOD FOR MAKING IT. (Food Industries, December) A sugar sirup that is very sweet, bland, and with no distinctive color or flavor to complicate its use, can be produced from apples by a simple process, according to the Eastern Regional Laboratory. The product has been tested and found commercially acceptable. The process is still in the "semi-plant scale" stage, worked out on 15-gal. runs, but the transfer to plant operation is not yet accomplished. Although certain details need further study, the main features are established and it is believed to be practicable for commercial operation. The laboratory is continuing work on the process.

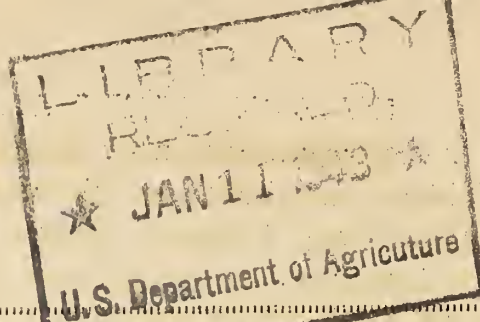
FOOD-PRESERVATION TRAILER. (Extension Service Review, December) A trailer exhibit, parked on the main streets of important centers, was used in Suffolk County, N.Y., to spread information on food preservation to the woman on the street who does not usually attend training schools or public demonstrations. This was a joint project of the home demonstration and 4-H Clubs and was visited by approximately 500 people in a single week. The exhibit was based on the daily food guide and the minimum amounts of food needed to be stored for one person for a year...Typical examples of canned, dried, brined, and stored food gave an indication of what can be done easily at home. Mimeographed material and leaflets on canning, drying, and brining and a daily food guide were given to all who were interested.

RAYON DRYERS USED IN DEHYDRATION. (Wall Street Journal, Dec. 11) The American Viscose Co. announced yesterday that its dryers used for drying rayon yarn had been successfully used in the dehydration of vegetables. Experiments were completed, the company said, at its Marcus Hook, Pa., plant in cooperation with the food branch of the War Production Board and with Stokely Brothers & Co., Inc., food canners.

CORK FROM DOUGLAS FIR. (Western Frozen Foods, Nov.) Cork, that much needed insulation material, of which there has been an acute wartime shortage, will now be made from Douglas Fir trees according to an announcement by Professor Bror L. Grondal of the University of Washington College of Forestry. He says the college has developed a process of extracting cork commercially from bark of this famous species of Pacific northwest evergreen, and has developed and perfected new machines to be used in the process.

17981
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Washington, D.C., December 28, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU. (U.S.D.C., Dec. 23, 1942) A large northeastern area, experienced one of the coldest December weeks of record. In the Southeast most of the week was relatively warm, but on one day a minimum of 24° occurred as far south as Savannah. Much of the western half of the country had an abnormally warm week, in marked contrast with the cold weather of the Northeast. Precipitation was widespread, though mostly moderate in amount, in the Central and Eastern States. In most of the north, livestock required much feed and fuel consumption was abnormally heavy. In the Southeast, there was one day of subfreezing temperatures as far south as Georgia. No extensive damage resulted, although winter crops suffered somewhat and there was some frost-nipped tender truck. In Florida considerable quantities of winter vegetables are being marketed, with citrus groves showing improvement. Winter truck marketing advanced in southern Texas. Truck crops are mostly good and the harvest of citrus fruit active in California. Over the great western grazing areas mild temperatures and much open range continued to favor livestock. In the far Southwest, range moisture is still inadequate. Conditions as affecting the winter wheat crop continue on the whole favorable.

CHEWS UP OLD CORNSTALKS. (Science Service, December) Chewing up old cornstalks left in the fields, and especially the tough stumps of corn plants, that every Corn Belt farmer knows as a nuisance in working his land, is the job assigned to a machine invented by Walter S. Sargent of Des Moines. The stalks are scooped out of the ground by a shovel-like implement and carried by a conveyor to the main part of the machine, where they are beaten to shreds by a series of pivoted hammers mounted on two parallel rotating shafts. The shredded debris forms a useful mulch on or in the soil, and reduces to humus much more rapidly than the decay-resistant whole stalks and stumps. Another advantage of the treatment, not mentioned by the inventor, is the thorough demolition of the winter homes of the European corn borer, which have a wicked habit of hiding in cornfield remains until spring releases them for further mischief.

COMPRESSED VANILLA. (Business Week, December 5, 1942) Vanilla flavoring tablets have been developed by the Subsistence Research Laboratory of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot to save shipping space and alcohol. Instead of shipping a quart bottle measuring 90 cu. in. and weighing 2½ lb., the Army ships a package of 192 tablets measuring 10 cu. in. and weighing 2½ oz. A 5-grain tablet (equal to 1 teaspoon of extract) is dissolved in water or in the liquid part of the recipe. Ingredients of the tablets are lactose, cornstarch, coumarin, and either vanillin or ethyl vanillin.

December 28, 1942

INTER-AMERICAN TRADE. (Pan American Union Bulletin, Dec., 1942)

New trade connections between the United States and the other American republics and between these republics themselves are now being formed. After the war is ended not all such connections will be retained, but many of them will remain. To that extent hemisphere trade will be enhanced. Moreover, if current developments result in better-balanced economies and improved standards of living for the American republics, inter-American trade will be expanded and the American republics will be drawn more closely together in mutually advantageous relationships.

WAR FORCES FOOD PROGRESS. (Food Industries, Dec. 1942) Tightening of belts on the European food front has stimulated a great deal of important research and development in countries where the food supply is second only to armaments in this all-out world war. "Down under" in Australia the war has stimulated a big increase in the output of canned fish, owing to the shortage of imports which formerly came from the United States and Canada. Australian tuna, pilchards, anchovies and barracouta have proved very suitable for canning. South Africa, has been experimenting with new food processes to improve the diet of its troops. The low temperature research laboratory of the Department of Agriculture has found that if beef is frozen, then dried in the frozen state, it can be restored to original fresh beef when required. Soybeans are being canned in tomato sauce, giving the troops a higher food value than the beans ordinarily used. Germany, like Japan, has learned to produce edible synthetic fats, by means of the fat-forming fungus *Penicillium javanicum* and the yeast *Endomyces vernalis*. This process was tried in Germany during the First World War. Britain has turned to refrigeration on a larger scale than ever in its history, in order to lay up food reserves. . . . Soviet food technicians have developed new methods for conserving vitamin C in soups for workers' canteens that are isolated from the big towns, particularly on farms. The Ukrainian vitamin C soup borsch, made by the Russians from a number of vegetables cooked together to provide essential food for workmen on their famous collective farms, has high calorific and vitamin values. It has been found that the best way to preserve these food values is to convey the soup to the farm workers in properly closed containers, or vacuum containers, so that it does not have to be reheated.

WARTIME ACCIDENTS ENDANGER CROPS. (Better Crops with Plant Food, November, 1942) Accidents on the farms loom as a potential menace to production. The danger intensifies as war conditions intensify. Farmers are necessarily welcoming to their fields and orchard hundreds of inexperienced school boys, women used to working only in the farmhouses, and older, unsure people, their machinery and tools are growing old. Repair parts are hard to get, repair men are scarce, and speeded-up farm work on huge war crops means sleepiness and exhaustion, even among the reliable workers and the leading farmers themselves. Meanwhile, the growing lack of civilian doctors and public-health nurses heightens the potentialities of loss. Besides the worry and family and medical expenses that bad accidents bring in their trail, there is always the danger of a lost crop for lack of cultivation, or fertilizing, or spraying, or harvesting — at just the right time. Either a broken back or a badly broken instrument can bring a huge dent in a farm's contribution to Food for Freedom.

JAPANESE CHICK SEXARS (Business Week, Dec 12, 1942) Several hundred of the American-born Japanese evacuated from the Pacific Coast are being released by the War Relocation Authority to practice their skill of chicken-sexing in midwestern and eastern hatcheries. They will help solve a serious but little-recognized problem of hatchery operators who have besought WRA to provide at least enough experts to teach Caucasians the difficult process. Their release won't help Pacific Coast hatcheries, however, because military authorities refuse permits for any of the evacuees to re-enter western military zones.

ARGENTINA'S MOTOR-FUEL PROPOSAL. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, Dec. 5, 1942) The recent session of the Argentine Congress considered, but did not act upon, a proposed law calling for the construction and installation of alcohol distilleries in Argentina for the manufacture of motor fuel, using corn, wheat, barley, and other national products as raw materials. . . . An investment of 24,000,000 pesos is proposed for the erection of plants having a total annual minimum capacity of 110,000,000 liters of anhydrous alcohol of 99.8°. Use of a motor fuel composed of a mixture of gasoline and alcohol containing not less than 10 percent alcohol is contemplated. Use of pure gasoline would be illegal.

COLLECTION OF HOG BRISTLE. (National Provisioner, Dec. 12, 1942) Hog bristle is a critical war material which is vitally needed by the United States as much as scrap metals, rubber and other essential commodities. With a decided decrease in the importation of hog bristle, due to the war-time problem of shipping from various countries, pork packers are now being called upon to supply as much usable bristle as possible which can be recovered from hogs in this country. . . . Two methods, he said, are used to recover the bristles from the hog. One is hand pulling, which will be explained later, and the other is by suction, which employs a vacuum hose equipped with a fixture that fits over the hog's back and is furnished with a device that helps rub the bristles loose. The hand method gives the best results, while the mechanical suction yields more short hairs.

CORN RECORD — 191.6 BUSHELS. (Prairie Farmer, Dec. 12, 1942) A total of 191.64 bushels of corn an acre! That's the new world's record certified test yield which has just been made by Paul H. Peabody, Christian county, Illinois, farmer. His huge yield tops the old record of 191.1 bushels set by Herman Barrett, Gibson county, Indiana, last year. While Indiana's reports are incomplete for 1942, Peabody's record will stand unless it is beaten in the Hoosier state. Peabody was the total score winner last year in the 10-acre contest sponsored by the Illinois Crop Improvement Association. His championship then was based on production cost, yield and quality, and he has a good chance to repeat again this year.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENT. (Pennsylvania Farmer, Editorial, Dec. 12, 1942) Men from submarginal lands in Kentucky and Wisconsin are being enlisted for all-year work on farms, trained briefly at agricultural colleges and then placed where they are needed. This is an experiment that we all hope will be successful, though we hardly expect it to result in large-scale movement of farm labor from such areas to others. If it succeeds even in a modest way it will be helpful. In any case it may provide useful information for future emergencies.

December 28, 1942

BAKERS PLEDGE COOPERATION. (Bakers Weekly, December 14, 1942)

The following telegram was sent to Secretary Wickard by the Bakers War Committee from its meeting in Washington, Dec. 7: Honorable Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. "The War Committee of the American Bakers Association and the Associated Retail Bakers of America on behalf of the entire baking industry congratulate you and the nation on your appointment as food administrator and assure you the industry's whole-hearted support and unselfish cooperation."

AFTER THE WAR. (Southern Dairy Products Journal, December, 1942)

A revolution in American food habits and farm production will result from the training in nutrition which U. S. soldiers are receiving in the Army, according to Colonel R. A. Osmun of the Supply Service. Soldiers who live at home on lean meat, potatoes and coffee or on hominy grits, fat pork, molasses and a little bread are now learning what a life is like with a balanced diet. Colonel Osmun said soldiers on returning to civilian life will demand milk, fresh vegetables, fruits and other food for a balanced diet and will begin developing dairy herds, vegetable gardens and fruit farms to supply nutritional deficiencies in one-crop farming districts.

THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, Dec. 5, 1942)

Leaders of the United Nations have continually stressed the fact that the present world conflict is basically a war of transportation. Every medium of transportation is included in this battle line. These lines of communication are the very fiber of world strategy. And in the vast interplay of movement of men and machines on the global battlefronts, the Pan American Highway System may be destined to play a significant wartime role. The construction of the Pan American Highway, like the building of the Panama Canal, may fairly be classed as a milepost in mankind's constructive achievements. The joint effort to build this great system of highways and principal connections of some 15,000 miles may justly be called a monument to the cooperative spirit of the Western Hemisphere republics.

TURKEY OPPORTUNITY. (Turkey World, Dec. 1942) The future looms unusually bright for those who plan to produce eggs and poults and raise turkeys in 1943. . . . Little need be said about the outlook for eggs and poults. Practically all the eggs available have been booked at prices well above last year. The margin of profit in eggs this year should be greatest on record. Hatcherymen already report more advance poult orders than ever before. . . . From the standpoint of the grower, the 1943 outlook is excellent. The price ceiling is a favorable one. . . . Those who might be concerned about the uncertainties of the future as to ceilings, etc., have little grounds for their fears. If any further changes are made, they will be favorable ones. . . . Not only is it our opportunity, but it is our duty as well to produce more eggs, poults, and market turkeys next year.

DRIED EGGS. (Food Industries, Dec., 1942) To meet the Lease-Lend requirements, the domestic egg drying industry increased its production in less than one year from about 10,000,000 lb. to more than 250,000,000 lb. To facilitate distribution under the British rationing program of three eggs per person per month, over 50,000,000 lb. of these dried eggs was to be packed in 5-oz. consumer packages. The contents of the 5-oz. package are equivalent to one dozen shell eggs and serve as the monthly quota unit for an average family of four.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C., January 4, 1943

WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. (U.S.D.C. December 30, 1942) Temperatures during December were unusual in geographic distribution with a more or less uniform migration, as the month progressed, of abnormally high readings from the extreme West eastward to the Atlantic coast. During the week just closed there was a further apparent eastward drift to the Atlantic coast, and practically all portions of the country had above normal temperatures. Precipitation was heavy and widespread. In Tennessee and Alabama, in some localities, totals for the week ran as high as 8 inches or more. Heavy snow occurred in some north-central areas and parts of the southwestern Plains, but high temperatures reduced the snow cover. Frost is out of the ground as far north as the northern middle Atlantic area. On the whole, recent weather has been favorable for the development of winter crops in the Southern States. In Florida irrigated truck is making good growth, citrus groves have improved; Over the great western grazing country conditions continued favorable for livestock. Small grains.--In the main Winter Wheat Belt there was a material reduction in snow cover. However, there were no damaging temperatures. West of the Rocky Mountains the grain crop outlook continues favorable.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ENGLAND. (The Farmers Weekly, December 4) There have been between 600 and 700 outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in this country this year. Isolation is not effective; the only possible policy is slaughter. The black-out prevents carcasses being burned during war-time, and after burial animals must be covered with six feet of soil. The disease was noticeable in cattle, but pigs only showed one symptom, lameness, and as that could be attributed to various causes, farmers were often slow in reporting suspected cases, and valuable time was lost in closing the area. While the policy of slaughter involved the loss of breeding and milking animals, a change of policy to isolation would inevitably result in the spread of the disease throughout the country.

1944 FLOWER SEEDS CURTAILED. (Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World) Bodger Seeds Ltd. have issued a notice to the seed trade that in order to do their part in meeting the emergency food crop production, they have to greatly reduce their flower seed acreage for the coming year. In consequence, they will not have their full line of seeds for the 1944 season. To meet the situation all items with only a limited demand are being discontinued.

THIS IS A SCIENTIFIC WAR. (The Laboratory, Vol. XIII, No. 5 in an article with this title) The regional research laboratories of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have gone to war work. A few of their activities are the development of better methods of preparing cotton for use in the manufacture of smokeless powder, new methods to make rope from domestic hemp, the development of "Norepol" rubber substitute, and ways and means of dehydrating meat and vegetables for shipment to the Expeditionary Forces. They follow through with pilot plant operations and then teach the various industries how to carry on.

January 4, 1943

SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT. (From leading article in Science, Dec. 11-- by Dr. Harold G. Moulton, President of the Brookings Institution)...What we are really interested in should be the scientific spirit, which is an attitude of mind, rather than a field of inquiry, a body of principles or a particular method of analysis...True scientists are alike only in their pursuit of the common purpose of deriving their conclusions from ascertained facts. It is this scientific outlook, this scientific attitude, this scientific frame of mind with which we are concerned when considering the problems of modern government. If we are to conduct the greatest of all businesses, namely, that of government, with even a reasonable degree of proficiency, if we are to maintain a stable and efficient democratic, political system, it seems obvious that the effort must be increasingly animated by and permeated with the scientific spirit. This is because of the preponderant, if not controlling, importance of government in the entire scheme of things.

DEHYDRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, December 19) Fruit and vegetable dehydration will be conducted on a large scale in South Africa during 1943, according to trade reports. Many tons of vegetables will be dehydrated in the next few months for the use of the armed forces. The dehydration plants will operate throughout the entire year. Last season 12,000 tons of pears were dehydrated in 5 months, and more perishable fruit is expected to be preserved in this way in the first 3 months of next season.

GRADE LABELING. (Food Field Reporter, December 21) Chicago--The blunt assertion that grade labeling will be required on all canned goods as an instrument of price control by the Office of Price Administrator was given last week before the Food Processors' Conference in Chicago by A.C. Hoffman, of OPA's Food Price Division. He also made clear what the position of nationally-advertised brands of food will be under price control in the following words: "In the case of advertised versus non-advertised brands, it is obvious that price differentials between such brands cannot be recognized, except on the basis of actual difference in grade. This is again true from the mechanical standpoint and should not be construed as directed toward the curtailment of advertising."

CAUSE OF SHEEN ON MEAT. (The National Provisioner, December 26) The iridescent sheen frequently observed on a slice of cured meat is no indication that the product is unwholesome, but is caused by the breaking up of white light by the highly fibrous character of the meat surface and the film of fat on these fibers, Dr. L. B. Jensen, chief bacteriologist of Swift & Company, points out in his new book, "Microbiology of Meats." The phenomena have no sanitary significance, the author states, but are like the diffraction of light found in the mother-of-pearl play of colors typical of a clam shell.

NEW LEGUMES. (American Agriculturist, December 19) Trial plantings of ladino clover and birdsfoot trefoil have shown value in this, their second year after planting, in 125 demonstration areas of New York State. Ladino clover is ready to cut before clover, alfalfa and timothy, while the birdsfoot trefoil matures late, and can be cut after clover and alfalfa have been

January 4, 1943

harvested and still make good quality hay, says Prof. E. Van Alstine of the New York State College of Agriculture. These two crops enable a farmer to do his haying over a longer period of time, without the need for so many workers in one short season.

RUBBER FROM SOYBEANS. (Agripol) (The Chemurgic Digest, November 30)
The first commercial production in the world of synthetic rubber from soybeans has been announced by Henry Reichhold, chairman of the board of Reichhold Chemicals, Inc., Detroit, Michigan, one of the world's largest manufacturers of synthetic resins. Called Agripol, this chemurgic rubber, has been under experiment by Reichhold and the United States government for more than a year. Present production capacity for the making of Agripol in Reichhold plants is approximately a quarter of a million pounds a month, to be increased to two million pounds per month by February, 1943, and to 4,000,000 pounds per month by May, 1943, provided raw materials are allocated for the purpose and permission is granted by the War Production Board for a modest amount of additional equipment. Further expansion during 1943 will bring total annual production up to a minimum of 50,000,000 pounds. Agripol, at the present time, is not offered as a substitute for rubber in the manufacture of tires, Reichhold emphasizes. But, its use for innumerable mechanical products of a critical nature has been demonstrated to a sufficient degree to absorb RCI's entire 1943 contemplated output, resulting in an immense conservation of industry's supply of natural rubber.....Principal raw materials employed in the production of Agripol come from the American farm--soybean oil and ethyl alcohol, although only a small percentage of ethyl alcohol is used. The fatty acids extracted from the soybean oil, when polymerized with ethylene glycol (obtained through the dehydration of ethyl alcohol) produce Agripol. Agripol was made possible, Reichhold points out, through initial research begun by the Northern Regional Research Laboratories of the United States Department of Agriculture at Peoria, Illinois, which in the spring of 1942 succeeded in demonstrating that a rubber-like product (Norepol) could be made by the polymerization of the fatty acids extracted from domestic vegetable oils. During the succeeding months, Reichhold chemists worked cooperatively with the Peoria staff and accomplished the task of reducing previous laboratory experiments to commercial practice and the synthetic substitute for natural rubber known as Agripol was the result.

IS THE MARKET RUNNING WILD? (Holstein-Friesian World, December 19)
Some of our breeders have expressed concern that we may be getting into a run-away boom market on registered Holsteins. We do not share this view--yet, --but it is a subject very pertinent to consider. We want no repetition of the 1918-20 situation. In that earlier day prices of all kinds of livestock ran completely wild, and when the boom blew up it left a trail of ruin and discouragement from which all branches of the livestock industry suffered for years thereafter. It was not confined to our breed by any means, although we had our share of it.....The thing we are most concerned about now is the rather human tendency which breeders may have to sell their culls at fancy prices to unsuspecting beginners. That will really hurt the purebred industry. Breeders who are looking ahead constructively will cancel the papers on such animals and sell them as grades.

FLORIST TURNS TO VEGETABLES. (T.A. Weston, ⁱⁿ Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World, December 26) It is not at all likely that the florists and nurserymen of America will, like their contemporaries in Great Britain, be compelled by law to cut down their output of ornamentals and devote part of their ground to food stuffs. It is even less likely that greenhouse operators will be ordered to plant all or part of their greenhouses to vegetables.....But regardless of possibilities and probabilities, florist growers near the largely populated centers and even those in the smaller towns that are not adjacent to truck growing sections, will do well to consider vegetables as a possible source of income during the coming year. If good, unneeded ground outdoors is available, it certainly can be made to produce and it is not improbable that neighborhood shopkeepers, rather than use gas and rubber going to market, will be glad to take a crop as it comes in. Certainly the florist with glass, should not fail to raise the kinds of vegetable plants that home gardeners and allotment workers will be seeking next Spring. The Dept. of Agriculture has already announced its intention of calling upon all who have the ground, to grow vegetables for their home use and so ease the transportation situation.

SELECTED PINE FOR NAVAL STORES. (Science Service, Dec. 18) Pine trees selected for their high yield of rosin and turpentine, as choice rubber trees are selected for high latex yield, are now being propagated by workers of the Southern Forest Experiment Station here, it is announced by three Station staff members, H. L. Mitchell, C. S. Schopmeyer and K. W. Dorman, in the current issue of Science. In field tests leading up to the experiments, thousands of slash pine trees were examined and their yield of gum carefully determined. Twelve trees, that for some unknown reason produced two to three times as much as the average, were selected. Cuttings were made from them, which, after a considerable period of initial failure, were finally induced to produce roots through a complex treatment with growth-promoting chemicals. "It is reasonable to believe," the researchers comment, "that the development of high-yielding stands would contribute greatly to the solution of production problems which have long troubled the \$25,000,000 a year naval stores industry, which supports some 50,000 workers and their dependents."

HAND WOOL BALER. (University of California Clip Sheet, December 15) Since his first announcement of the completion of a trial wool baler, Prof. J. F. Wilson of the University of California College of Agriculture on the Davis campus, has revised his specifications, simplified the design, and lessened the cost of construction. Plans for the new baler, which can be made of scrap lumber and iron for the most part, will be published soon. California wool has been shipped in burlap bags, which now are scarce. Professor Wilson has designed a hand-operated baler which uses no burlap or other cloth, but which packs the wool in cardboard cartons in a bale 20 by 36 by 40 inches, at less cost per pound than packing in new wool bags. The bale is more easily handled and saves shipping space.

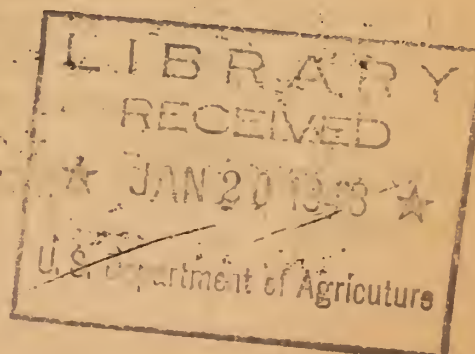
A BOOK WORTH \$5 FREE. (The Progressive Farmer, January) Probably the most useful publication ever issued by the USDA is the new 1,259-page 1942 United States Department of Agriculture Yearbook: Keeping Livestock Healthy . . . literally packed with rules not only for treating all kinds of diseases of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry, but also rules for keeping them healthy so diseases will not develop. It is a book that may easily be worth \$5 to any farmer with any considerable number of livestock,

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Washington, D. C. January 11, 1943

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. (U.S.D.C., January 6) Except in very limited areas, the weekly mean temperatures, for the second successive week, were above normal throughout the country. The exceptions were the Northeast, the northern Great Plains, and locally in the Southeast. West of the Rocky Mountains there has been a remarkable persistence of above-normal warmth. A brief cold period penetrated the deep South carrying freezing temperatures to parts of the central Gulf coast. It resulted in little or no damage to hardy truck crops, such as cabbage, beets, lettuce, and carrots, but some tender vegetation was frosted in northern Florida, and considerable harm resulted to tomatoes, beans, squash, egg plant, and peppers in southern Texas. Outstanding features of the week's weather were heavy rains and damaging floods in two widely separated areas, the upper Ohio Valley and western Oregon. Seasonal farm work was again inactive in most sections because of wet fields. In most Interior States the late fall and early winter have been so persistently unfavorably for field work that considerable corn remains un-gathered. Ungathered soy beans have deteriorated badly. In most grazing areas conditions continued favorable for livestock. The Northeast, most of the Lake region, and a large central-northern area have ample snow protection for winter grains, but most of the main Winter Wheat Belt is now bare. No damaging temperatures have occurred. In the southeastern belt warmth and abundant moisture have been favorable for late seeded grain.

SIX-COW HERDS. (EDITORIAL, Wallaces' Farmer, Dec. 26, 1942) We'll need to have more milk produced in 1943. What chance do we have of getting it? Market milk areas are plainly going to show a slump. Labor shortage is most acute there. But out in the creamery, cheese factory and condensery country, what is the situation? Families with five or six cows are increasing their herds by one or two or three. The family does the milking anyway. They have the feed and the extra work is well paid for. Bigger herds, on farms where hired labor is employed, are being cut down. Yet in much of the creamery territory, expansion in small herds will balance reduction in big ones. But when the decrease in market milk areas is added in, it seems possible that fewer cows may be milked in 1943 than in 1942. How well will these cows be fed, and how heavily will they produce? Hog prices will have some weight here. A farmer with a dual-purpose herd may turn the calves in with the cows next spring and spend his time on hogs, if hogs seem to be paying more for grain than butterfat can pay. The big hope for dairy growth is on the farms now milking only a few cows. If every farmer now milking six cows would add three more, production in 1943 would probably reach the new goals.



January 11, 1943

FARM EQUIPMENT AFTER 1943. (Editorial in Implement & Tractor, December 19)....The food situation for 1944 and beyond must be surveyed upon a factual and not a theoretical basis. By that time the production of new machinery will have been reduced by one year's normal supply, that much having been taken out of 1942 and 1943 alone.....In the consideration of essential food production beyond 1943 the entire trade, which has gone all-out in its victory effort, will have its responsibilities and its opportunities for national service. WFB and other governmental agencies will need and welcome factual information. The trade can best determine the extent to which present equipment can be maintained for further service, and the amount to be discarded as impossible of further use. It will know to what extent, if any, lack of machinery has contributed to poor tillage, seeding, cultivation, harvesting or processing. It can thus provide the basic data for allocating materials to various items throughout the line. The trade's first concern for the duration should be to enable agriculture to operate with its absolute minimum of equipment. Its second--to be on guard against food crises or famines which can be just as fatal as shortages of arms.

USDA AND LAND GRANT COLLEGES. (Science, December 25, 1942) Leading article is "A Unified Command and Democracy in Agriculture", by James D. Hoskins, President of the University of Tennessee, is a discussion of relations between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Land Grant Colleges, and urges a post-war policy of decentralization of extension work and action programs and a restoration of earlier relationships between the colleges and the various agencies of the Federal government.

POST-WAR FERTILIZERS. (The American Fertilizer, December 5): Article by John A. Miller, President of The National Fertilizer Association, says in part: "At the suggestion of Dr. William H. Martin, Dean and Director of the New Jersey College of Agriculture and Experiment Station, who is also a consultant on fertilizer and insecticides for the War Production Board, the National Fertilizer Association has taken the initiative in calling a conference on post-war nitrogen utilization problems. This conference was attended by representatives of many of the national societies and agencies. Only last week at a meeting of the American Society of Agronomy in St. Louis, the joint committee on post-war nitrogen problems was organized to study the question of the most advantageous use of an increased supply of chemical nitrogen that will undoubtedly be available after the war. In this connection it seems to me that we have a wonderful opportunity, particularly in view of the simplified grade situation, to perform a great service for agriculture in the post-war period. Many of you recall vividly the situation that existed in our industry during the last war. Potash was practically unobtainable and prices of other raw materials skyrocketed to a marked extent. Many manufacturers felt that they had realized handsome profits and so they had. The volume of business continued to be good for some two years after the war, but we shall never forget what the commodity slump in 1921 did to war profits in this industry. There certainly will be no repetition of such a situation, as wise precaution has been taken that no such build-up will be permitted and, therefore, no such letdown suffered." Issue also includes article "THE FERTILIZER SITUATION AND THE WAR," by F. W. Parker, Bureau of Plant Industry.

January 11, 1943

VEGETABLE "BRICKS". (New York Herald Tribune, January 3) Dehydrated vegetables are being compressed into "bricks" and wrapped with various packing materials which would replace critical metals, especially tin, in the search for a process for packing dried foods under way in the bacteriology laboratories at the State Experiment Station of Geneva, N. Y. After wrapping and sealing, the "bricks" are thrown into tanks of water or stored in a room kept at 100 degrees Fahrenheit and 85 percent humidity to simulate tropical conditions, and the contents of the packages sampled from time to time to determine the efficiency of the packaging operations. Dried vegetables, including carrots, beets, cabbage, sauerkraut and other products, are subjected to tremendous pressure to reduce the materials to small "bricks" practically free from air. Then by covering these "bricks" with various moisture-proof materials the contents of the package are protected against deterioration in color, flavor, and nutritive value.

VITAMIN A IN DEHYDRATED EGGS. (Science, December 11) S. M. Hauge and F. P. Zscheile of Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, report tests to discover whether or not the nutritive value of eggs has been lowered during dehydration. Since vitamin A is one of the most labile food factors, a study was made to determine the effect of the dehydration process upon the vitamin A value of dried eggs. The samples of fresh liquid and dried eggs were collected at a commercial plant which employed a Mojonier spray drier. The results of the biological assays indicated that little or no deterioration of the vitamin A took place during the dehydration. These samples compared very favorably on a moisture-free basis, with potencies of approximately 44 I.U. per gram.

MACHINE RATIONING. (The Farmer-Stockman, January, 1943) "Are you asking for a new machine?" War-Time shortages of steel and other critical materials have caused the War Production board to order severe cuts in farm machine production for next season Only a few machines will be allotted to each county, and these few will be distributed only upon the order of the local rationing board to farmers who can show the greatest need and the best use they have made of their present equipment. Such boards will have one or more representative farmers among their members and are likely to be pretty hard boiled when they come to dole out the few precious new machines allotted to that county. A prospective purchaser is likely to get little sympathy if he is noted for buying more machinery than he needs or for failure to give his machines proper shelter and repair. He is certain to be quizzed sharply about the old machines he has on hand and the possibilities of repairing them. Hence every farmer who thinks he needs a new binder should come before his rationing board with clean hands. He must show that he has done everything possible to get present machinery under shelter of some kind, that plows and cultivator shovels have been coated with heavy oil or grease to prevent rusting, that harrow and plow disks and planter shoes are set up on boards off the ground.

LABOR CLEARING HOUSE. (Editorial - New England Homestead, Dec. 26, 1942) Lack of farm help still ranks as one of our most serious problems. . . Recent changes in the Manpower Commission find Paul V. McNutt in the saddle in charge of all manpower, including selective service. Out of all the many

changes which have taken place it becomes evident that the government intends to make the United States Employment Service the clearing house for available farm labor. This being so, let's make use of this agency to the fullest extent. Each state has its state office. If you are in need of specific help, now or in the near future, why not contact your nearest United States Employment Service office and give them an opportunity to serve you and your community? Don't wait until you actually need a man -- anticipate your needs and file now. This will not guarantee help when you want it, but will give the agency an opportunity to try to supply your needs.

CANADA IN FOURTH YEAR OF WAR. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, Dec. 26, 1942) In the gains in (Canadian) country-store sales, one finds an indication that the improvement in farm income prospects this fall has contributed substantially to the marked rise in demand.....A new 10-percent increase in hog prices is indicated by the terms of the new contract recently negotiated with the British Government for bacon exports in 1942-43. The quantity to be shipped, also, has been increased from 600,000,000 to 675,000,000 pounds.....Low butter stocks have caused some anxiety in recent weeks. . . Cheese exports for United Kingdom account, which have been bonused by both the Dominion and Provincial Governments, have tended to divert production from butter.....The beef shortage, which was comparatively serious in some eastern centers in the summer and fall and for a time threatened meat rationing, has faded--partly because of the seasonal increase in cattle marketings and partly because the Government has taken firm control of supplies by shutting off private exports and creating a cattle-buying organization which is able to divert all cattle offered to the home market. The Government, by tax reduction and the broadening of subsidy payments affecting tea, coffee, oranges, and milk, will make an effort to hold the cost of living down to approximately the level of November 1, 1942, when the official index stood at 17.6 percent over the pre-war or August 1939 level. Since general price control was inaugurated a year ago, the index has risen less than 3 percent, but about \$30,000,000 has been paid out in subsidies. The cost of the new measures is expected to be perhaps \$40,000,000 additional.

SEEK APPLE BOX SUBSTITUTE. (Better Fruit, December, 1942) Washington apple growers are already thinking about boxes for next year, and if someone wants their vote for saviour of their country, he need only come forth with a substitute for the famous apple box, with a new box which requires no strategic materials, such as lumber, wire or nails. Importance of the problem can be seen when it is considered that it takes 110,000,000 board feet of lumber to make boxes to ship the state's 27,500,000 box crop of apples. The War Production Board reports that all packing boxes and crates made this year in the country used 9,000,000,000 (billion) board feet of lumber and 200,000 tons of steel, and that restriction is demanded for 1943.

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The Daily Digest

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Washington, D. C., January 18, 1943

Because of the need for economies in materials, personnel and time, and because of the difficulty of doing a first-rate editing job under present conditions, the Digest is being discontinued -- at least for the war's duration. We appreciate that The Digest has many faithful readers, and that many of you say it is of great help to you, but we cannot at present give it the attention it deserves.

The Press Service
Department of Agriculture.

